

## 10.30.22 / God's Gift of His Indwelling Spirit / Romans 8:5-16

Last week we looked at Romans 7 and we were reminded of the Gospel message – the good news of rescue through faith in Jesus. Any time we're reminded of God's **gift of His Son** its right for us to do some self-reflection: in response to the gift of God's Son, **Am I living for Jesus? Is my daily life living out a sincere commitment to Him?**

How does my **faith in Jesus** speak into...

- My temptations? / frustrations? / sadness? / fear?

**Faith in Jesus** is not just a thing we claim to gain eternal security; it's a core conviction that speaks into almost every decision in life and almost every feeling we feel. We need to keep preaching the gospel **to ourselves** because it matters; it *is* the foundation upon which we stand.

This gospel assures us that we worship a God who demonstrates and promises **power** over evil and **healing presence** for all eternity.

And here is a point of real difficulty that I think many of us **feel**: I'm glad for what Jesus did. I'm hopeful regarding the ultimate outcome of the victory Jesus promises. **But/and...** I'm struggling in the meantime.

- I know God saved me from spiritual death to spiritual life.
- I know that I will share victory with Him one day over all pain and sadness.

**But...** you might say... I'm in pain **today**. I'm sad **today**. You may say... my family's a mess, my finances are a disaster, my loved one is ill, my body is falling apart, my job is miserable, I'm lonely, I'm confused, I'm tired, I'm depressed, I'm scared. **I need help today**.

In God's all-knowing plan he made **provision for us today** amidst these exact circumstances.

To be honest – I often question God's "all knowing" plan. But as I read scripture I'm reminded of the truth that J.I. Packer articulates well: *God's Omnipotence is governed by His omniscience.* That is a God worth trusting!

Jesus has brought us from spiritual death to spiritual life. We have confidence that we will share in His ultimate victory one day... but **How is He providing for us right now?**

**Answer: He sent His Spirit to dwell inside of us.**

For everyone who places faith in Jesus, Triune God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of them. That is better than any Science fiction...

I find this to be a helpful illustration of the gift of the Spirit: Imagine you received **three million dollars** and were told that was just a deposit guaranteeing your eventual inheritance of 300 million dollars. **As we talk** about the Spirit this morning I encourage you to keep this illustration in the back of your mind. I wonder how much that \$3 million deposit guaranteeing our inheritance of \$300 million **is like** the Holy Spirit.

With that in mind I want us to listen to Paul's instruction in [Romans 8:5-8](#)  
**Paul is contrasting** the desires of the **flesh** and the desires of the **Spirit**. – The battle within that we talked about last week.

What are the desires of the flesh? [Galatians 5:19-21](#)

**Common root** - Selfish ambition, pleasure, preservation – all lifting up self - self glory

What are the desires of the Spirit? [Galatians 5:22-23](#)

**Common root** – God glory (each comes from Him - love, joy, peace)

**Where is your mind set?** Set on Spirit glory or self glory?

We know that perfection is not attainable – so this is not about guilt; it is **first** about **noticing** where your mind/heart is set.

A few years ago I read a fantastic book on feelings called *The Voice of the Heart* by Chip Dodd. One of the things that I learned is that my feelings tell me something. The feeling of anger tells me what's important to me. It reveals where my heart is set. Do you know what I get angry about most often? **My** life getting inconvenienced. What does that tell me about what **my heart** is set on? [Cooper bath story](#).

You may say, *no big deal, give yourself a break*.

But... notice with me how often is your mind set of self glory (comfort) rather than on Spirit glory? You can ask that question about any of your emotions: Anger, Fear, Sadness, Gladness, etc. At the root of that emotion, is your mind set on self glory or spirit glory? I don't know about you, but **most** of what I get **sad, mad, and glad** about on a daily basis involves **self glory** over **spirit glory**.

Again, I don't believe Paul is trying to hammer us with guilt here. I believe he's gently drawing our attention to the fact that our **mindset default** is sin nature **and we have** this incredible 3 million dollar deposit (which is the Holy Spirit) waiting (right inside us) ready to be utilized.

Paul's not saying, "you idiot!". He's saying, "Look at what you have!"

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**Paul is writing** about the presence of the Spirit. Address Questions:

**Who is the Spirit for?** Believers. Ephesians 1:13-14.

**What does the Spirit do?** V 10 - *The Spirit gives life*. Not just life as opposed to death – but spiritual life – ability to know what is true and do what is right – **live** as you were created to **live**. That's **life!**

**How does the Spirit give life?** [John 14:26](#)

**Teach you all things** – How? Context – disciples... live under the Word. **As you do so**, (not by magical download – as you do so) the Spirit who now dwells inside you will illuminate these Living Words.

**Remind you of Jesus words** - and bring it to mind in opportune moments throughout the day. [Illus: Philippians 3-4](#)

### How do you recognize the Spirit's voice?

1. Is it biblically consistent?
2. Is it connected to God glory or self glory?

### How do you listen to the Spirits voice?

- **Reading Bible** for transformation – [illus: reading instruction manual vs. listening to spouse](#)
- **Silence and solitude** – focus on a primary question and notice where the Lord takes your thoughts. Test your thoughts (self-glory vs. God glory). *i.e. God what do you want me to know about you right now?*
- **Notice the Spirit speaking through others.**
- **Act on what you hear** – follow where you believe the Spirit is leading

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The Spirit has applied your redemption. He has *brought about your adoption to sonship*. You have been chosen and brought into the family of the Triune God.

*By by the Spirit – because of the Spirit we cry Abba, Father* – That is to say that we are welcomed into an intimate relationship with the Triune God.

*Spirit testifies that we are God's Children* – How would a perfect father care for the infant child in his arms? That's God caring for us! **We are God's children.** The Spirit is proof of that!

### **Praise God for His empowering gift of His Spirit.**

Closing Song – “Spirit, what do you want me to know about God this morning?” Listen for the Spirit's voice.